

yeai, industrial upheaval very much on the scale of 1926 would have been experienced but for the outbreak of war The Webbs, in the 1920 edition of their *History of Trade Unionism*, say bluntly "British Trade Unionism was, in fact, in the summer of 1914, working up for an almost revolutionary outburst of gigantic industrial disputes" Tom Mann had come back from Australia to preach Syndicalism, the control over industry by the workers engaged in it, and to rouse them, if he could, to seize power through a vigorous declaration and practice of the Class War At the same time, orderly Collectivism was being vigorously attacked The revulsion against it, and against the Webbs, was harsh Their non-party attitude during the Minority campaign had alienated many Labour people and groups they stood, moreover for a kind of outlook which ran entirely counter to the new mood The s\vmg against them was violent In 1913 and 1914 the very word, Collectivism, was enough to produce a jeer at Labour meetings The unofficial *Daily Herald*, founded about this time, was a purely militant organ, both on Suffrage and on Strikes It tieated the Webbs with hostile derision Its regular term for St Stephen's \as "The House of Pretense"⁵ its attitude to the Labour Party there purely hostile It voiced, with angry acrimony, a pietty general disappointment, born of too sanguine hopes of \hat a small Labour Opposition could actually accomplish It inveighed against parliamen-

tarism and even against democracy on lines
not very
different from those of its colleague on the
other side,
The Morning Post And it saw the Webbs as
epitomising
everything it hated

Here, then, were the "other directions" to
which, so
Mrs Webb wrote in March 1913, she and
her husband
felt that they must turn their energies Here
was a threat
to all that they cared for and had worked
for a threat